

From: Casso, Ruben
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2015 1:37 PM
To: Dellinger, Philip
Subject: Texas will spend \$4.5 million to 'monitor, locate and catalog' earthquakes larger than 2.0M

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Earthquake country

Ground shaking near Venus marks the fifth earthquake cluster in North Texas since 2008. “We should understand that some parts of Texas are in earthquake country now,” said Mark Petersen, an expert with the U.S. Geological Survey.

1. Location: Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport

Dates: Halloween night 2008 to May 2009

Biggest quake: 3.3 magnitude

2. Location: Cleburne

Dates: June 2009 to June 2010

Biggest quake: 2.8 magnitude

3. Location: Reno and Azle

Dates: November 2013 to present

Biggest quake: 3.6 magnitude

4. Location: Irving and Dallas

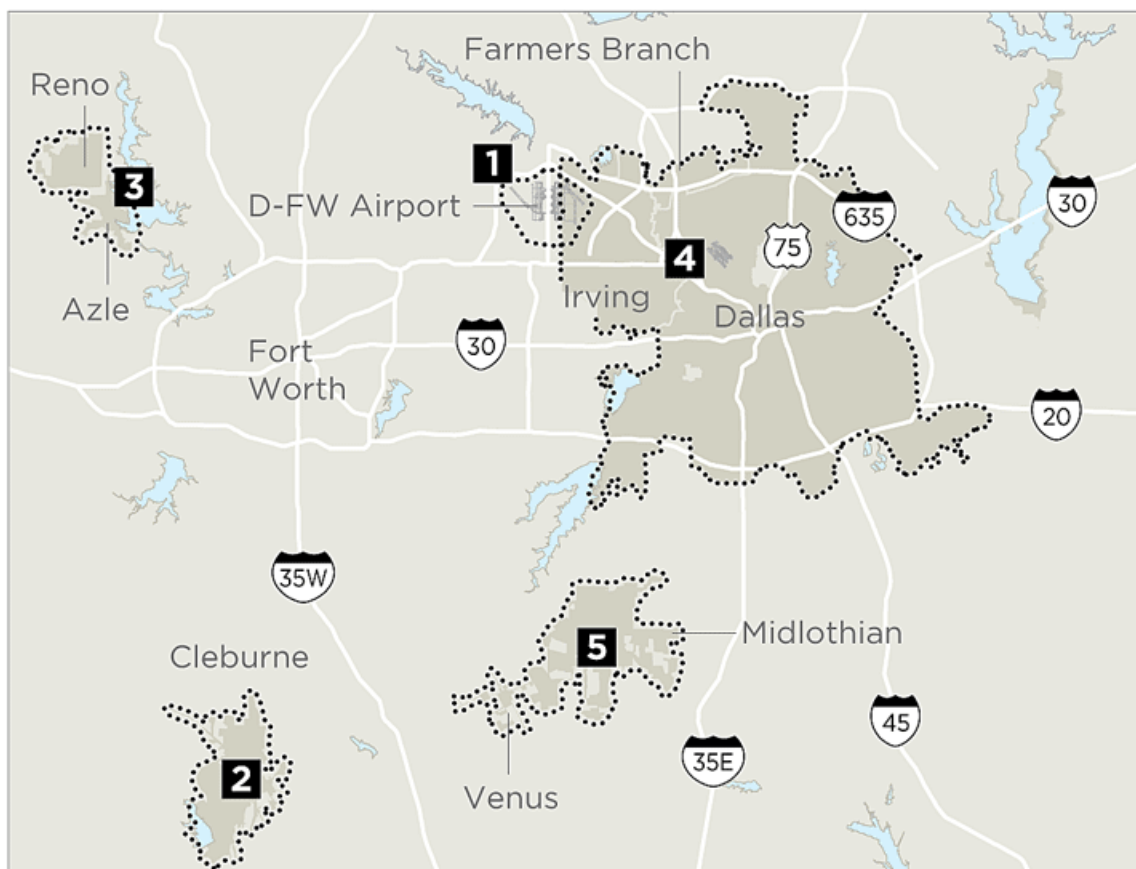
Dates: April 2014 to present

Biggest quake: 3.6 magnitude

5. Location: Venus and Midlothian

Dates: 2009 to present

Biggest quake: 4 magnitude



SOURCE: *Dallas Morning News* research

Troy Oxford/Staff Artist

According to the U.S. Geological Survey it's been just nine days since Dallas' most recent earthquake — a 2.3-magnitude tremor on Manana Drive near Stemmons Freeway, just south of the city-owned soccer

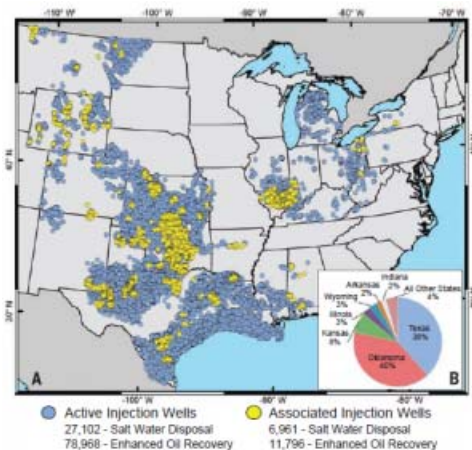
fields at Moneygram Park, that rumbled through with nary a mention at 8:34 in the morning. Two days later, during the wee small hours of June 15, Venus had its own 2.3M quake — not quite the 4-pointer that ranks as North Texas’ biggest ever, but that’s beside the point. In case wondering if the earth has stopped moving under our feet, no, it has not.

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That’s why Texas Gov. Greg Abbott has signed off on spending \$4.47 million to fund what’s known as the TexNet Seismic Monitoring Program, which will involve planting at least 22 seismometers in “key locations” around the state. A release from the state’s Bureau of Economic Geology, which is operated out of the University of Texas at Austin, doesn’t specify where they’ll be installed. Messages have been left for director Scott Tinker and spokesman Mark Blount, and we’ll update accordingly, but officials say we’re living “in an area of great interest,” and that it’s “fair to say” Dallas and Irving will get some of the seismometers.

“The mission of TexNet is to provide transparent access to data and information regarding the understanding of earthquake activity in Texas, both natural and potentially induced by human activity,” says the release from UT. The seismometers will “monitor, locate and catalog” quakes that register 2.0M and larger “to improve the state’s ability to rapidly investigate ongoing earthquake sequences in Texas,” says the release. “Of particular importance are those earthquakes larger than magnitude 3.0 in or near urban areas, or in locations where ongoing human activities might be influencing earthquake activity.”



Until we hear back from Tinker, all we have to go on his prepared statement: “We’re very grateful to Gov. Abbott and the state Legislature for entrusting us with the task of investigating seismic activity in Texas in a transparent way, and for providing the tools to gather new data and produce unbiased research that will help guide decision-makers as they contemplate future policy regarding these events. We’re excited to work together with our academic, industry, state and federal government partners to advance seismic understanding in Texas.”

Studies have shown a decided link between oil and gas production and the “unprecedented” rise in quakes in North Texas and Oklahoma. Energy companies and the Railroad Commission of Texas keep insisting that’s not true.